

(323) 881-2401

August 26, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

**ARCO REFINERY FIRE**

On August 23, 2002, at 11:21 p.m., units from our Department responded to a fire at the Arco/British Petroleum Oil Refinery located at 22600 Wilmington Avenue, Carson. Upon arrival, the responding units found smoke and fire showing from an east coker unit on the refinery property.

The fire was caused by a failure in a coupling gasket in the 12" resid (component of petroleum) feed line to the coker tower that allowed the petroleum product to escape from the apparatus and ignite.

Foam was used to control the fire without it spreading beyond the point of origin. The fire was extinguished within approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes. There were no fatalities or injuries reported.

Approximately 40 personnel from this Department were employed to extinguish the fire. Assisting in this effort were firefighters from Los Angeles City and Long Beach Fire Departments, as well as fire personnel from Arco/British Petroleum. Also at the scene were personnel from Los Angeles County Health Hazardous Materials and representatives from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

If you have any questions, please call me, or your staff may contact Deputy Chief Jimmie Ryland at (310) 419-8731.

PMF:kaj

c: David E. Janssen  
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